

Good Neighbor Environmental Board **ROUND-UP**

Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border

Volume 3, Number 6
November 2002



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Calendar of 2003 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

- February 18-19, 2003 Washington, DC.
- April 9-10, 2003 Deming, New Mexico
- July 30-31, 2003 Del Rio, Texas
- October 22-23, 2003 San Diego, California or Tijuana, B.C.

Board Selects Themes for 2003 Meetings

Themes have been selected for all three of the Board's border-community meetings scheduled during 2003. For the Deming, New Mexico meeting, which will take place on April 9-10, the two themes are Groundwater and Innovative Environmental Technologies. The theme for the Del Rio, Texas meeting, scheduled for July 30-31, is Environment/ Economy. And for the final meeting of the year, set for October 22-23 in San Diego, the theme will be Binational Cooperation.

Besides these three border-community meetings, the Board also will hold a Strategic Planning Session in Washington, D.C. on February 18-19. This session will begin with a three-hour expert seminar called U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Forecast 2003. Experts from the Washington, D.C. area are being invited to brief the Board on what they see as the hot topics for the border-region environment for the coming year.

Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the Board's meetings and provide their own input during the public comment sessions.

Board Member Diane Rose Re-Elected Mayor of Imperial Beach

Our congratulations to Board Member Diane Rose, who recently was re-elected as Mayor of Imperial Beach, California. We appreciate her contributions to the Board's dialogue as a well-respected representative of local government in the border region.

Board Alternate Bob Ybarra to Retire

One of the Board's most valued Member Alternates, Roberto (Bob) Ybarra of IBWC, has announced his retirement from the Commission on December 3rd. Bob worked closely with current Board member Carlos Ramirez (the U.S. Commissioner for the IBWC) as well as his predecessor, John Bernal. Good Neighbor will miss Bob's presence at our discussion table, and we wish him all the best for the future.

Former EPA Representative to the Board to Leave EPA

Gregg Cooke, EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator in Dallas, has announced his intention to leave the Agency early next year. He served as the EPA representative to the Board prior to the current representative, Laura Yoshii, who is Deputy Regional Administrator for EPA Region 9 in San Francisco. We wish Gregg well and thank him once again for his contributions to the work of the Board.

Former Board Member Jennifer Kraus Receives Her Doctorate

Former Board member Jennifer Kraus, Principal, Global Environmental Consulting Company, has received her Doctorate in Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology. Her dissertation was titled "The Implementation of ISO 14001-conformant Environmental Management Systems and Occupational Injury and Illness Rates Along the U.S. Mexico Border." We wish her all the best and appreciate her continued interest in the Board's work.

Border Region and National News

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board November
2002 Round-Up*

****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

- **Air** - **New Source Review** - EPA has finalized one rule and proposed another rule related to New Source Review; the proposed rule relates to the existing routine maintenance, repair, and replacement exemption contained in EPA's current regulations and seeks public feedback. See www.epa.gov/nsr
Policy - EPA Administrator Christine Whitman unveiled a new Air Quality Strategy developed by the U.S. and Mexico at the recent annual Binational Commission conference, this year held in Mexico City. The strategy calls for continued emphasis on sustainable development, coordinated border airshed management, and increased understanding of the potential harm to human health. A report on potential pilot projects is scheduled for April 1, 2003. **Toxics** - On November 22, EPA Administrator Christine Whitman approved for publication in the Federal Register the last 10 proposed air toxics standards required under the Clean Air Act.
- **BECC** - The following projects were reviewed during October: *Step 1*: East Mesa Water Reclamation Feasibility Study in Las Cruces, NM; State of Texas Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Project; Water Conservation Improvements Dona Ana County, NM; 2003 Water System Improvements, Hidalgo County, TX; Water Conservation Improvements - Lateral "A" Canal, San Juan, TX; Olmito WSC Improvements to Water and Wastewater Systems, Olmito, TX; Generation of Clean Energy for the State of

- Baja California, Mexicali, B.C. *Technical Assistance Approved:* Hidalgo County Irrigation District project to conserve Rio Grande River water, TX; Harlingen Cameron County Irrigation District project to conserve Rio Grande River water, TX; Wastewater system repair in Pharr, TX; paving of streets in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. *Technical Assistance Requested:* Harlingen Cameron County Irrigation District project to conserve Rio Grande River water, TX; paving of streets in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.
- **Brownfields** - EPA and 21 other federal agencies have announced the Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda. The Agenda makes more than 100 commitments, including an EPA commitment to potentially provide \$850 million over the next 5 years to states, tribes, counties, municipalities, and non-profits for Brownfields work. See www.epa.gov/brownfields
 - **Health** - **Children's**- EPA and the American Lung Association recently announced the Asthma Research Strategy, a new initiative to advance scientific understanding and prevent asthma, said to be the most common chronic childhood illness. Issues addressed will include pollutants that contribute to induction and exacerbation of asthma, such as air toxics. See www.epa.gov/iaq/asthma. **Emergency** - US AID has provided a \$350,000 grant to help fund a pilot Medical Emergency Triage and Stabilization Unit at the General Hospital of Nogales, Sonora.
 - **Colonias** - Work has started on water and wastewater improvements for 15 colonias in Laredo and Webb County, Texas. It is part of the Texas Plan, which involves NADBank, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Secretary of State's Office, and several border communities. See www.nadb.org
 - **Compliance Assistance** - The U.S.-Mexico Border Compliance Assistance Center is scheduled to open in spring of 2003; it is being developed by the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, in partnership with EPA and the states of Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, and California. Its special focus will be importing hazardous waste into the United States from Mexico.
 - **Environmental Justice** - EPA has announced its small grants solicitation for FY 2003. Pre-applications must be postmarked by December 18. See www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html
 - **Governor Races** - Election results for the four U.S. border-state Governors: Janet Napolitano was elected in Arizona; Gray Davis was re-elected in California; Bill Richardson was elected in New Mexico; and Rick Perry was re-elected in Texas.
 - **Homeland Security** - President Bush has signed into law the bill to create the Department of Homeland Security. A total of 22 separate federal agencies will be combined, including the Border Patrol and FEMA.
 - **Research** - The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies' Environmental and Sustainable Development Program at UC San Diego is soliciting interdisciplinary research proposals focused on the border region. Deadline is January 15, 2003. See www.usmex.ucsd.edu
 - **Water** - **Infrastructure** - NADBank has signed a US\$8.69 million grant to finance water supply and distribution in Nogales, Sonora. See www.nadb.org Also, EPA Region IX has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact for a Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems upgrade in Patagonia, Arizona; BEIF funds would be used for this project. See www.cocof.org **Policy** - The UN Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights issued a statement November 27th declaring access to water a human right and stating that water is a social and cultural good, not merely an economic commodity. The representative from Mexico to this committee, according to the Inter Press Service, is Javier Wider Zambrano.

Events Calendar

from the Good Neighbor Environmental

*Please check a primary source for accuracy.
Events specific to border region are in bold.
Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please
notify Editor of changes.****

Dec 3	NACEPT Committee on Compliance Assistance public meeting, San Antonio, TX. See www.epa.gov/fedreg
Dec 3-4	Roundtable: "Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management for the Western U.S.-Mexico Border Region," Scottsdale, AZ Contact: Carol Graves at 1 858 453 5560, ext. 107.
Dec 3-6	EPA /TCEQ National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum, San Antonio, TX. See www.mng_ltd.com/cfide/website/ncapf02
Dec 5	NADBank Board public meeting, San Antonio, TX. See www.nadb.org
Dec 5-6	International conf: "Regional Reflections on the World Summit in Johannesburg: Equity and Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region" San Antonio del Mar, Baja California. See usmex.ucsd.edu
Dec 9-10	JPAC Financing and the Environment public workshop and regular session Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, MX.. See www.cec.org/jpac
Dec 11	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
Dec 15-16	Colorado Water Users Association meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada
Dec 17	BECC Board meeting, Brownsville, Texas
<u>2003</u>	
Jan 9-10	Local Officials Border Policy Forum, Rio Rico, AZ
Jan 14-16	Homeland Defense/Security Training Conference: Regional, State, and Local Strategies, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: 703-807-2027.
Jan 27-30	Air Quality & Global Climate Change Sixth Annual EPA, DOE, EPRI, EEI and A&WMA joint conference, Tucson, AZ. See www.euec.com
FEB 18-19	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Feb 27-28	CLE International Border Environmental Law Conference, Tempe, AZ
Mar	International Forum on Regional Haze, hosted by Central Regional Air Planning Association, El Paso, Texas. See: www.cenrap.org/meetings
APR 9-10	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEMING, N.M.
Apr 9-12	Association for Borderland Studies annual meeting, Las Vegas, NEV
Apr 28-30	Border Institute V: State of the Border Environment and Health of Its Peoples: Indicators of Progress, 1990-2020, Rio Rico, AZ. See www.scerp.org
Mar 16-23	Third World Water Forum, Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, Japan. www.worldwaterforum.org
May 15-17	Encuentro Fronterizo Conference, Tijuana, Baja California. www.encuentrofronterizo.org
June	Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX. See: www.bordergovernors.com
June	U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association Conference
June 24-25	CEC Annual Council Session, Washington, D.C.
July 30-31	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEL RIO, TX.
July 30 - Aug 1	Conference: Water Security in the 21 st Century, Washington, D.C. Contact: mskerly@siu.edu
OCT 22-23	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA

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